

**REPORT**  
OF  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
FOR  
**HIPPERHOLME URBAN DISTRICT**  
For the Year 1914,  
BEING THE  
Twenty-Second Annual Report  
OF  
**R. DAVIDSON, M.O.H.**



# Sanitary and Water Committee for 1914.


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ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Councillor J. CRABTREE, Chairman.



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## To Hipperholme Urban District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in placing before you my Report for the year 1914. It consists of (1) Statistics of births, deaths, infectious and other diseases, with comments thereon; (2) remarks on sanitary and other relative matters; and (3) various tables. The Sanitary Inspector's Report is also appended.

**Area of District.**—This amounts to 1,192 acres, and the physical outline of the district may be described as an elevated sloping plain extending for two miles from west to east and one mile from north to south. The whole is almost naturally and proportionately divided into three parts, the first part beginning with Hipperholme at the higher latitude, the second merging with Lightcliffe on the level, and the third terminating with Bailiffe Bridge below. For the purposes of this report the three-fold geographical limitation thus formed will be employed in the absence of definitely existing wards.

The Rateable Value for the year was calculated at £28,669, which was an increase upon that of 1913.

**Population.**—At the last census the total population at all ages was 4,438: I have placed the “estimated population” for 1914 at 4,480. It is possible that my figures may be at fault, but in arriving at such an estimate I have taken into account amongst other things not only the number of new houses which have been erected, but also the number of empty houses.

TABLE A.—(Population).

Year.	Population.	Inhabited Houses.	Average No. of persons per house.
1841	... 2836	... 573	... 5.0 (approx).
1851	... 2813	... 590	... 4.76
1861	... 2778	... 602	... 4.6
1871	... 3501	... 758	... 4.6
1881	... 2920	... —	... —
1891	... 3309	... 755	... 4.38
1901	... 4205	... 981	... 4.28
1911	... 4438	... 1148	... 4.0 (approx.)

**Births.**—During the year there were registered 75 births, comprising 36 males and 39 females. In the first quarter the number registered was 15, in the second 23, in the third 19, and in the fourth 18.

As regards **sex**, the average proportion is—males 48 per cent., females 52 per cent. That the sex-proportion is a variable quantity from year to year will be seen by examining Table B.

The **Birth-rate** per 1,000 per annum is 16.7 as compared with 17.4 in the previous year. This rate is much below that for England and Wales, but the declension has been a gradual process ever since 1897 when the high-water mark was reached at 23.4. The average rate for the previous five years was 17.1.



TABLE B.—(Births).

Year	Males		Females		Total	Rate per 1000 per annum.		
1905	...	45	...	39	...	84	...	19.4
1906	...	35	...	31	...	66	...	15.3
1907	...	35	...	42	...	77	...	17.7
1908	...	44	...	38	...	82	...	18.8
1909	...	50	...	40	...	90	...	20.5
1910	...	28	...	34	...	62	...	14.0
1911	...	39	...	33	...	72	...	16.2
1912	...	40	...	38	...	78	...	17.5
1913	...	29	...	49	...	78	...	17.4
1914	...	36	...	39	...	75	...	17.1

**Deaths.**—The actual number of deaths which were registered in the district was 41; but there are 8 transferable deaths which have to be taken into account, of residents not registered in the district. Thus the nett number became 49, 28 of males and 21 of females.

The quarterly mortality was as follows:—in the first quarter, 20; in second quarter, 13; in third quarter, 8; in fourth quarter, 8.

In analysing the numbers in the various age-periods I find that 3 died in infancy, 3 between one and two years of age, 2 between two and five, 5 between the ages of five and fifteen, 5 between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five, 5 between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five, 9 between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five, and that 17 had attained the age of sixty-five and upwards.

**The Death-rate** is 10.9 per 1,000 per annum as against 10.7 in 1913, and is below the average for the previous five years.

TABLE C.—(Deaths).

TABLE C.—(Deaths).							Rate per 1000	
Year.	Males.		Females.		Total.	per annum.		
1905	...	19	...	35	...	54	...	12.5
1906	...	30	...	38	...	68	...	15.6
1907	...	35	...	31	...	66	...	15.2
1908	...	26	...	32	...	58	...	13.3
1909	...	30	...	39	...	69	...	15.7
1910	...	27	...	28	...	55	...	12.3
1911	...	32	...	31	...	63	...	14.1
1912	...	24	...	27	...	51	...	11.4
1913	...	21	...	27	...	48	...	10.7
1914	...	28	...	21	...	49	...	10.9

Among the **chief causes** of death were :—

(a) **DIPHTHERIA**.—One death from this disease occurred in Lightcliffe.

(b) **NEPHRITIS** was the cause of two deaths.

(c) **INFLUENZA**.—There was one death under this heading as compared with one in 1913 and two in each of the four preceding years.

(d) **PTHISIS OR TUBERCULOSIS OF LUNGS**.—One person died from this disease; as compared with former years the drop here is very considerable.

(e) **TUBERCULOUS DISEASE OF OTHER PARTS** was also the cause of one death.

(f) **RESPIRATORY DISEASES**.—Eight persons were certified as having died from diseases of the respiratory organs, as against four in 1913. This death-roll is slightly above the average, which is about seven per annum.

(g) **CANCER**.—This malady was the cause of three deaths as compared with six in 1913 and 1912, four in 1911, five in 1910, and nine in 1909.

(h) **ORGANIC HEART DISEASE**.—Here six deaths were registered, and this number constitutes about the average for former years.

(i) **INFANT MORTALITY**.—Three infants died during the year; this is much below the average number for the previous five years.

The **number** and the **rate** of infantile deaths vary from year to year, but since the year 1901 a fairly low average has been maintained. The causes of death were registered as convulsions, meningitis and bronchitis.

The **rate** of mortality per 1,000 of registered births is 40.

(j) **ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.**—The principal epidemic diseases form the basis of calculation here, and for this year it includes one death from Diphtheria. This gives a rate below the mean of former years.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Notifications.**—Of those infectious diseases which are notifiable the number reported during the year was 41, viz.:—Diphtheria 3, Erysipelas 1, Scarlet Fever 21, Tuberculosis 8, and Measles 8. The cases occurred in the following months:—In January 5, in February 4, in March 4, in April 6, in May 6, in June 3, in August 2, in October 2, in November 4, in December 5. Every month of the year except July and September contributed more or less to the infectious catalogue.

The number of this class of diseases reported annually since the adoption of the Compulsory Notification Act in this District in 1890 is shown in Table D. The inclusion of Measles among those diseases which **must** be notified, dates from June 1st, 1905, so that to obtain the average for ten years it may be expedient to select the period from 1904 to 1913, and exclude Measles and Tuberculosis from the reckoning altogether. Such average is 25, and as 25 notifications were received (irrespective of Measles and Tuberculosis) it would appear that the year 1914 occupies the exact average mark.

**Isolation Hospital.**—(a) THE JOINT HOSPITAL is situated at Clifton, Brighouse. Patients suffering from any of the following diseases are received, viz.: Cholera, Typhus Fever, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

During the year twenty-two cases were admitted from this district, of which number two were Diphtheria patients and twenty Scarlet Fever patients.

(b) SMALL POX.—In terms of an agreement concluded between the Corporation of Halifax and the Joint Hospital Board (which includes Hipperholme), cases of Small-pox arising in this district will in future be sent to the Hospital at Halifax for treatment. No case of Small-pox has been notified for ten years.

TABLE D.—(Infectious Diseases).

Year	Small-pox	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Continued Fever	Measles	Total
1890	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	5
1891	...	...	...	2	13	1	...	...	16
1892	54	...	...	3	11	...	1	...	69
1893	3	2	...	3	1	2	...	...	11
1894	...	...	...	2	15	4	...	...	21
1895	...	...	...	...	3	4	1	...	8
1896	...	...	...	2	24	5	5	...	36
1897	...	3	...	4	28	1	...	...	36
1898	...	...	...	4	5	7	1	...	17
1899	...	1	...	2	21	...	...	...	24
1900	...	...	...	2	13	3	2	...	20
1901	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	5
1902	...	1	...	...	7	2	...	...	10
1903	2	2	...	1	4	2	...	...	11
1904	3	1	...	1	8	...	1	...	14
1905	...	...	...	8	4	1	...	3	16
1906	...	11	...	1	8	1	...	51	72
1907	...	4	...	3	24	1	...	39	71
1908	...	3	...	2	1	1	...	94	101
1909	...	4	...	1	13	1	...	18	37
1910	...	1	...	3	46	...	...	86	136
1911	...	50	...	3	19	...	...	3	30
1912	...	1	10	3	1	...	...	19	34
1913	...	11	9	5	43	...	...	60	128
1914	...	3	8	1	21	...	...	8	41

**Diphtheria.**—There were three notifications of this disease, which is under the average number for the previous ten years. Two of the cases occurred in Lightcliffe, and one in Hipperholme. There were two patients removed to hospital. One child died at home in Lightcliffe.

**Scarlet Fever.**—During the year 1913 the cases of Scarlet Fever numbered forty-three, of which four occurred in the first half of the year and thirty-nine in the second half: and in my report for that year I indicated that the epidemic had not quite come to an end. Beginning in January when five cases were reported, the disease was prevalent more or less during the whole of 1914; and the total for this year reached 21, of which number 20 were removed to Hospital for treatment.

**Measles.**—Measles was present in our midst as early as March and odd cases, amounting in all to eight, occurred till the end of the year. The average for the ten years during which this disease has been notifiable is very much higher than the number now reported.

**Tuberculosis.**—During the year there were eight notifications as compared with nine in the year 1913. In six persons the lungs were the seat of the disease: in one the intestines were involved, whilst in another the glands were affected. There were two deaths registered, one due to pulmonary, and the other due to intestinal, tuberculosis. Two patients received Sanatorium treatment: one other was removed to Halifax Union Hospital; and a fourth to Bradford Infirmary, in which institution death took place. Upon receipt of notification the home of each patient was inspected, and, as necessity arose, disinfection of the house was resorted to, whilst advice leaflets were distributed and other measures adopted in order to check the spread of the disease. In lung cases the diagnosis was verified by a bacteriological examination of the sputum at the County Hall, Wakefield.

**Erysipelas.**—Under this heading only one report was received in April from Hipperholme. The average for the last twenty years is two per annum.

**Whooping Cough.**—This complaint has visited the district very lightly since 1902 when a severe epidemic prevailed. During the year 1914 the first cases were noticed in April in Hipperholme: in May it was prevalent in Lightcliffe, and in July it had spread to Bailiffe Bridge. No fatality resulted from this disease.

**Chicken-pox.**—A few cases were recorded in June and July: but at the end of the year the Hipperholme part of the district experienced a rather sharp outbreak of this ailment.

**Influenza.**—Although this disease was prevalent more or less during the whole year, its presence was most markedly felt in the spring, and the severity of the type was quite as virulent as on previous occasions. It was aggravated by nervous, bronchial and abdominal complications and again proved fatal to one life.

Towards the beginning of summer a mild epidemic of follicular tonsillitis, in which the symptoms often resembled those of influenza, was present in all parts of the district.

## SANITARY MATTERS.

**Inspections.**—The routine work here is closely connected with nuisances in or near dwellings, with water, with sewerage and drainage, and with cowsheds and factories. But in addition to supervising such matters as these, the Sanitary Inspector has along with me visited and examined houses, places and localities which required special attention. In several instances, where infected houses were under observation defects have been frequently discovered in



drains, middens, etc., most of which were remedied in due course. The schools have also come under official observation on three occasions in connection with infectious diseases.

**Scavenging and Refuse Removal.**—The scavenging of the streets is carried out by the staff of the Council, but this is limited to the main thoroughfares and roads. Two carts also are employed for the purpose of watering the dusty highways in the summer months. The removal of house refuse and night soil is done by the Council's workmen, whilst the team labour is supplied by farmers or others on contract terms. This work was formerly done by contractors; the new arrangement appears to be satisfactory.

**Sewerage, Drainage, etc.**—The domestic and trade sewage is treated by the Corporation of Brighouse at their works at Cooper Bridge. The only developments during 1914 are the extensions which have been made in new streets.

**Water.**—The principal supply of the district comes from the reservoirs of the Halifax Corporation. Several extensions to new streets and other property have been made during the year. Intermittent fouling was occasionally observed, and complaints on the matter have been made to Halifax Corporation.

**Slaughter House.**—There is one slaughter house which is registered. No complaints have been made about it; it is kept in an orderly and cleanly condition.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—There are registered 14 cow-keepers and 14 purveyors of milk. It has been the custom of the committee to visit the cow-sheds once in the year. The Inspector reports that those places are conducted in a cleanly and satisfactory manner. I have for some time past suggested that the periodical examination by a

veterinary surgeon of dairy cows, which number 130, might be adopted with the object of detecting and dealing with tuberculous animals, but so far this suggestion has not been entertained as a practical necessity. No samples of milk were taken for analysis.

**Housing.**—There were erected during the year 8 new houses, all of which were working-class dwellings; Those building operations were confined to Bailiffe Bridge and Hipperholme, and each house was provided with a water-closet. The water-carriage system has been largely adopted of late years, and the conversion from the privy-midden system has been steadily increasing year by year.

The Council have designated the Sanitary Inspector as the officer to inspect houses and keep records under the Housing (inspection of district) regulations of 1910. During 1914 he inspected 52 houses in different parts of the district and found that 24 were defective. Those defects, however, were not sufficiently serious to require a closing order; and, doubtless, many of the defects, which were of a minor nature, will be speedily remedied. In Table C of the County Council many statistical details are to be found, as supplied by the Inspector.

**Factory and Workshop Act (1901).**—(1) REGISTER. From the register at the Council Offices I have ascertained that there are in all forty-five factories, workshops and bake-houses in the district. I have visited and examined those places, and the total of such inspections (inclusive of those made by the Sanitary Inspector) amounts to forty-one.

(2) SANITARY CONDITION. The report on the general administration of the Act is favourable. The cleanliness of the premises has been well maintained. No fault was discovered in ventilation or air space.



(3) BAKEHOUSES. Of the four bakehouses in use at the end of the year, two are underground and two are of the small retail variety. No faulty condition was reported in connection with any of them. The two underground bakehouses were considered to possess all special sanitary requirements, and certificates were accordingly granted by the District Council to the users of those places.

(4) HOME WORK. No home work is carried on in any dwelling, and no list of outworkers has been furnished by any employer.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. DAVIDSON, M.A., M.D. & C.M.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE C. 1914.

# Hipperholme Urban Sanitary District.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Any developments during 1914 ?—**Extensions of mains to new buildings.** Any insufficiency, and where ?—**No.** Any curtailment ? **No.** When and for how long ?— —

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Any developments during 1914 ?—**Completion of sewer in Highfield Avenue.** Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers ?—**Cecil Avenue and Till Carr Lane.** (b) Improvement of defective sewers ?— —. Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells ?—**No.** No. of sink-wastes disconnected during 1914 ?—**6.** Trapped ?—**8.** Proportion of sink-wastes still needing disconnection—**None.** Untrapped—**None.**

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens—**None.** No. of Pail or Tub Closets—**Three.** No. of Privies with covered middens—**200.** No. of Water Closets—**1,078.** Waste-water Closets—**41.** Are proper doors and coverings generally provided ?—**Yes.** No. of Privies re-constructed during 1914—(a) as w.c.'s—**60.** (b) other—**None.** No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1914—(a) w.c.'s—**None.** (b) other—**One.** No. of Closets constructed in 1914 for new houses—(a) w.c.'s—**8.** (b) other—**6.**

## SCAVENGING.

How is refuse disposed of—(a) Destructor ?—**No.** (b) Tips ?—**Yes.** (c) Farmers ?—**No.** Total annual cost—**£320.** Is there any inadequacy, and where ?—**No.** Any change during 1914 ?—**No.**

## NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1914—**309.** Informal Notices served—**32.** Complied with—**28.** Statutory Notices served—**4.** Complied with—**2.** Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1913—**10.** At close of 1914—**16.** Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1914—**32.** Abated during 1914—**26.** Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings—**None.**

Common Lodging Houses—**None.** Canal Boats—**None.** Knaekers Yards—**None.** Offensive Trades (Tanneries)—**2.** Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., fish-frying, maggot-breeding, etc. ?—**No.**

**SCHOOLS.**

No. of Elementary Schools in District—**3**. No. of Visits to Schools—**3**.

**MILK SUPPLY.**

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts—**None**. No. adulterated—**—**. No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—**None**. What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of Dairy cows?—**None**. No. of animals notified by Police during 1914 under Tuberculosis Order, 1913—**0**. Any action thereon by S.A., e.g., to ascertain if cowsheds affected were satisfactory?—**Regular inspection**. Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1914?—**No**. No. of Cowkeepers in district—**14**. No. registered—**14**. No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—**14**. No. who are Purveyors only—**1**. Total No. registered—**15**. Total No. of Cowsheds—**22**. No. of Inspections in 1914—**16**. General Condition—**Satisfactory**. Approx. No. of Milch Cows in District—**120**. Any insufficiency in Milk Supply?—**No**. Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders—**None**. Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—**No**.

**OTHER FOODS.**

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts—**None**. No. adulterated—**—**. No. of seizures of unsound food—**None**. Kind and quantity—**—**. No. of Prosecutions—**—**. No. of Slaughter houses—**1**. No. Registered—**1**. Kind and Condition—**—**. No. of Prosecutions—(a) Food and Drugs—**0**. (b) Unsound Food—**0**. (c) re Slaughter Houses—**0**.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

Any Smoke Nuisance, and where?—**No complaint**. No. of Smoke Observations taken—**0**. No. of Cautions—**0**. Legal Notices—**0**. Summonses—**0**.

**ADOPTIVE ACTS.**

Acts adopted during 1914?—**None**.

**BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.**

Any adopted during 1914?—**None**. Are any other Byelaws needed? **No**.

**INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Is Hospital accommodation adequate and sufficient?—**Yes**. What arrangement for the supply of antitoxin?—**At Council Office**. Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—**No**. Any influences threatening the health of the District?—**No**.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—**Yes.** (2) Examination for contacts—**Yes.** (3) Disinfection—**Yes.** (4) Distribution of advice leaflets—**Yes.** (5) Action re Spitting—**Cautioned.** (6) Shelters provided—**No.** (7) Is sputum examined?—**Yes.**

**BACTERIOLOGY.**

Is County Laboratory utilized?—**Yes.**

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

Births during 1914—Males—**35.** Females—**39.** Total—**75.** No. illegitimate included in above—**0.** No. of Still Births (not included)—**0.** Deaths during 1914—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction—**41.** (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—Males—**28.** Females—**21.** Total—**49.** No. of uncertified deaths (included above)—**0.**

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents—**None, but pending.** (b) for infectious cases other than at Hospital—**None.** No. of Burial Grounds—**1.** Any need for extension?—**No.** Are there any ill-placed fowl runs in District?—**No.** Any nuisance therefrom or action in relation thereto?—**No.**

**SANITARY STAFF.**

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—**£40.** Name of Sanitary Inspector—**G. Wharton Thompson.** Annual Salary as Inspector—**£90.** Other appointments held—**Engineer and Surveyor.** Salary for such other appointments—**£120.** Any Assistants?—**No.** Is Staff sufficient?—**Yes.**

**SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1914.**

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation—**0.** Houses totally unfit for human habitation—**0.** Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)—**24.** Houses inspected under the Act and Regulations in 1914—**52.** Houses found satisfactory on inspection—**22.** Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation—**0.** Houses for which notices were given to execute works—**22.** Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with—**22.** Houses in respect of which the Local Authority executed or were executing works in default of landlord—**0.** Houses in respect of which landlord elected to close house instead of complying with notices—**0.** Houses found with defects—**14.** Houses made fit after preliminary notice—**14.** Houses in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects—**0.** Houses made fit after notice—**0.** Houses found to be totally unfit for habitation—**0.** Houses represented to Local Authority as being totally unfit for human habitation—**0.** Houses made fit for human habitation without the issue of a closing order—**0.** Houses closed voluntarily—**0.** Houses in respect of which closing orders were made—**0.** Houses closed as unfit for human habitation after closing orders were made—**0.** Houses made fit for human

habitation after closing order was made, for which the Local Authority determined the order—**0**. Houses demolished voluntarily—**0**. Houses for which demolition orders were made—**0**. Houses demolished compulsorily—**0**. Appeals against notices under Section 15—**0**. Appeals against closing orders under Section 17—**0**. Appeals under section 17 (6) refusing to determine closing orders—**0**. Appeals against demolition orders, Section 18 (2)—**0**. Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation (Section 15)—**0**. Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)—**0**. Houses totally unfit for human habitation (Section 17)—**0**.

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—**G. Wharton Thompson, Hipperholme**. Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Section 17 (7) ?—**None**. Any action in respect of such rooms ?—**None**.

#### **OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING.**

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where ?—**None**. Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where ?—**None**. No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1914—**None**. Any special activity in house building, and where ?—**No**. Number of new Houses built during 1914—(a) Working-class dwellings—**8**. (b) Other—**None**. Are Sanitary Authority contemplating erection of working-class dwellings ?—**No**.

#### **TOWN PLANNING.**

Any scheme prepared during 1914 ?—**No**. Any scheme contemplated ?—**No**.

Signed R. DAVIDSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

31st December, 1914.

**NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the Year ended  
31st December, 1914.**

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GENTLEMEN,

The statistics set out in Table C indicate the work dealt with for the year ended 31st December, 1914.

The following observations only are made :—

Nature of Nuisances :

Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	6
Insanitary Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	24
Various Causes	...	...	...	...	2
					32

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The usual inspections and disinfection of houses have been carried out immediately upon removal of patients to the hospital.

Twenty-nine fumigations were made.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. WHARTON THOMPSON,

*Mem. R. Inst. of Public Health.*